AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, please amend paragraph 0004 to read:

In food processing, it is very important ~~that slicing of~~ in cutting the food product into slices or shreds ~~having~~ that the resultant food product has a uniform thickness. Such thickness uniformity facilitates further processing by yielding a maximum amount of usable food product with a minimum amount of waste. Furthermore, thickness uniformity enables uniform frying, roasting or melting of the sliced product, and produces an attractive food product to the consumer. Controlling the consistency of the thickness of the food products with the known cutting head requires accurate adjustment of the gate openings and coordination with the impeller disposed within the cutting head when mounted on the cutting machine.

Page 2, please amend paragraph 0005 to read:

It has been found with the known cutting head that it is difficult and time consuming to precisely adjust the gate openings to a desired width, and thereby produce slices or shreds of uniform thickness. It follows that it is also difficult to achieve a uniform gate opening between each cutting blade and an adjacent rear edge of a cutter support segment, and it has been found that the known cutting head will yield an inconsistent slice or shred thickness about the circular array of cutter support segments for a given cutting operation. The problem associated with the known cutting heads stems in large pat from the location of the pivot pins relative to the cutting edge of the cutting blade, and ~~but~~ with the configuration of the known cutter support segments, the pivot pin locations could not be brought closer to the cutting edge of the cutting blade to improve the geometry of the adjustment system.

Page 9, please amend paragraph 0029 to read:

FIGS. 5-7[[.]] illustrate the inner and outer clamping members 34, 36 on which the cutting blade 18 is mounted. In FIG. 7, the cutting blade 18 is held against bevel surface 37 formed on the inner clamping member 34 and attached to the inner and outer clamping members by locating studs 39 which extend through openings 45 of the cutting blade 18 to properly locate the blade relative to the clamping members 34, 36. The outer clamping member 36 is secured to the inner clamping member 34 by fasteners 41 by way of keyhole-shaped slots 43 which enable the removal of the outer clamping member 36 by merely loosening the fasteners 41 and moving the outer clamping member 36 such that heads of the fasteners 41 are aligned with the larger opening potion of the keyhole shaped slots 43 and then removing the outer clamping member 36.